

The Southeast News

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 8

JUNE 1964

Southern Union College Commencement Exercises

The annual commencement exercises of The Southern Union College were held on Sunday, May 31. Twenty-eight young people received the degree of Associate in Arts from President Walter A. Graham.

Dr. Austin R. Meadows, superintendent of public education for the state of Alabama, delivered the commencement address on the theme "Obligations to Develop and Wisely Use Human Talents."

Dr. Meadows commended the members of the graduating class and the institution for the job they were doing. He reminded the audience that the state board of education has voted to make the junior college a part of the state system when the state legislature votes the funds for its operation. This is anticipated in May of 1965.

Until such time as the school becomes a part of the state system it will continue to operate as a private institution related to the Congregational Christian Churches and the United Church of Christ. The financial support of the churches continues to be needed.

Dr. John W. Rustin, noted Methodist minister from Kingsport, Tenn., delivered the Baccalaureate Sermon at the Sunday morning service on the subject "Lengthened Ropes Should Mean Strengthened Stakes."

Mr. Fletcher N. Farrington, an Agricultural Expert from Montgomery, Ala., and a member of the board of trustees, received a citation from the college for his leadership in the project of beautification of the campus.

Also honored with citations were State Senator Julian Lowe, Rep. Gus W. Young, and Judge Stell Benefield, also a member of the board of trustees.

Mr. William E. Peterson, a field secretary of the Council for Lay Life and Work, Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr., and W. Pressley Ingram, chairman of the board, also participated in the exercises.



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Church World Service Needs More Blankets

ON MARCH 19, 1964, CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (the relief and rehabilitation department of our National Council of Churches) had in hand approved appeals for a total of 62,275 blankets. A quick review revealed the available supply almost exhausted. Quite naturally, leaders of CWS passed this distressing information along to all of its member agencies — so the word came to us. Because our United Church Board for World Ministries, through its Service Division, has a very vigorous part in the helpful ministries carried on through C. W. S., we send this information along, confident that it will challenge the interest of all United Church of Christ congregations. Hearty thanks to all who are already helping with this important work!

WHERE ARE SO MANY BLANKETS NEEDED? The number 62,275 is quickly broken down into requests from 26 areas of need: Congo—3,000; Greece — 4,155; Korea — 5,115; India Bengal Refugee Service — 1,500; India Tibetan Refugees — 15,000; etc., etc. Very likely appeals will soon come from other stricken areas.

DO THE BLANKETS REALLY HELP THE NEEDY? Yes, indeed! Our pictures tell the story of how blankets can convey our compassionate concern as they bring comforting shelter to the victims of war, floods, earthquakes and storms of all kinds. Often such a gift means cover against the cold of the night for more than one person. Blankets are sometimes used as clothing, for carrying babies on mothers' backs, or even for improvised tents for the homeless.

TO BE SURE, IN THIS MINISTRY, CLOTHING IS DISTRIBUTED when it is needed — and when it is available. Here we take note of recent reports which indicate that there has been a serious decrease in the amount of materials (clothing and blankets) received at the C. W. S. Centers across the United States;

January-February, 1964 — 557,479 lbs.

January-February, 1963 — 1,125,079 lbs.

At the same time, urgent appeals from areas of need continue to be heard.

OUR HOPE is that many of our people will find joy and satisfaction in helping to meet these needs through

Christian Young People Support Mission Projects

Christian young people around the world are supporting each other by making money gifts through World Youth Projects. In 1964, there are 40 projects totaling \$45,000.00 in 20 countries in every continent of the world. Young people of the United Church of Christ have been making gifts through World Youth Projects since 1951.

Your 1964 Youth Forum Board (which plans the annual Youth Forum) made the selection of this year's projects which were confirmed from the Geneva office of World Youth Projects. These are:

- \$500.00 in Northern Rhodesia for a youth camping area
- \$350.00 in West Pakistan for a youth worker
- \$500.00 in Brazil for a youth worker in rural areas
- \$250.00 in Italy for a youth camp and conference center in Sardinia
- \$500.00 in Mexico for a youth worker
- \$500.00 in Ceylon for a youth worker
- \$2,500.00

In each case, we are making only a partial gift toward each project, so that a project can claim that it is being supported by young people of two or more different churches or countries.

Young people in our United Church of Christ make this \$3,500.00 possible by your offerings to Our Christian World Mission, given through your local churches and through the offerings in your summer camps and conferences to OCWM. OCWM channels some of its funds to the United Church Board for World Ministries, through which the Division of Service makes our contribution for you.

Get the feel: you are helping pay for youth workers and for establishing camps and conference centers in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America through OCWM. Through World Youth Projects 1964.

their contributions of blankets and clothing. Materials may be sent to the C. W. S. Center at the address given below. Please identify your parcels as "Gifts from the United Church of Christ," even when sent as part of a community ingathering. If possible, send along 8c per pound of contributed material to pay the cost of processing at the Center and transporting to the shipping point.

INFORMATION about best proce-

Retired Missionary An Inspiration At 93

At 93 years of age, Dr. Mary Floyd Cushman radiates inspiration to those who visit her at Gove Nursing Home in Laconia, N. H. Doctor Mary retired when she was 83, having served in the African mission field for 28 years. Today her heart is still with her workers in Chilesso, and she urges friends to contribute toward their work through the United Church Board for World Ministries.

Doctor Mary was born on July 24, 1870, in Boston. Her father and grandfather were Congregational ministers of distinguished ancestry. Robert Cushman, who helped the Puritans secure their charter for settlement in America, and William Floyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, were forbears.

Doctor Mary's parents early dedicated their child "to the Lord for foreign mission service." Her mother guided her religious and cultural education. Mary graduated with honors from the Eastern State Normal School in Maine. In 1892 she graduated from Boston University Medical School and served her internship at the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital.

One thing that makes her accomplishment so inspiring to others is the fact that she was 52 year old in 1922 when she gave up a thriving medical practice in Farmington, Me., to answer a call from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (now the United Church Board for World Ministries).

"It seemed as though all of heaven opened up," she said recently in recalling this high point in her life.

Her mission was to start a hospital in Angola, once the wildest jungle in Africa, where no white doctor had ever gone. She had to learn the language and train African helpers.

Dr. Mary Cushman is one of the oldest living missionaries of our Board for World Ministries. She gave her lifetime of service so she "could follow the example of the Lord Jesus, who went about healing people." The hospital she founded in Chilesso carries on that work.

For getting such materials to the Center may be obtained from:

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CENTER
New Windsor, Maryland 21776

People...

Churches...

Events...

Poplar Arbor Church Makes Improvements

The Poplar Arbor Congregational Christian Church, Doerun, Ga., held a special dedication service on Sunday, May 17, 1964.

At this special service tribute was paid to the memory of Mr. W. W. Keadle, a member and deacon of Poplar Arbor Church and of Rev. James F. Haddan, the founder, first minister and long-time pastor of the church.

The following gifts and works were dedicated during the service.

The completion of the sanctuary ceiling and a bronze memorial plaque given by the congregation in memory of Rev. James F. Haddan.

Landscaping of the church grounds, made possible by a gift by Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Powell in memory of Mr. Willie Wade Keadle, early member and deacon of the church.

Hymnals given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Gill by Mr. Millard Gill.

American flag presented by Pine Forest Camp, 104, Moultrie, Ga., Woodmen of the World.

Christian flag given by the Poplar Arbor Sunday School.

Repair and painting the sanctuary walls and the new hymn board by the congregation.

Sallman's "Head of Christ" painting by Mr. and Mrs. Scott Morris Jr.

Memorial Fund in memory of Robert Lee Moss by Mr. and Mrs. A. H. McGraw, Doerun, Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. McDonald, Milledgeville, and Mr. and Mrs. William A. Clark, Moultrie.

Mr. Scott Morris Jr., who serves the church as pastor, conducted the service. Mrs. W. W. Keadle, Thomasville, and Miss Merry Lynne Moss, Doerun, were the organists.

The Rev. T. L. Richter of Thomasville, now a retired minister but at one time pastor of the church, delivered the sermon. Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr. brought greetings from the Southeast Convention and the Georgia-South Carolina Conference.

During the past few years the small congregation has been engaged in repairing and rebuilding the church building to create an atmosphere of worship in the sanctuary and the efficient facilities for the Sunday School. Visitors will be surprised and pleased by all of the improvements made.

Mission Leaders For Summer Conferences

Mr. Norman Rohlfling

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rohlfling are a young couple of about 25 years of age, and the parents of two lovely small children. They both graduated from the University of Nebraska with a B. S. degree in 1960.

Mr. and Mrs. Rohlfling are missionaries on furlough from Ghana. Mr. Rohlfling will be the missionary representative to the Kentucky-Tennessee Junior High Camp, July 26 - August 1, at Camp Ozone, Ozone, Tenn.

While Mr. Rohlfling is at the camp, Mrs. Rohlfling and the two children will spend the week with the members of the Norris Religious Fellowship, Norris Dam, Tenn.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Rohlfling have had practical experience as well as academic training in the field of agriculture. In Yendi, where they serve as missionaries, they have helped develop a program of rural agricultural extension work. They also assisted in starting a farm school for young farmers and their wives.

* * * *

Miss Mary W. Hurlbut

Miss Mary W. Hurlbut became an emeritus missionary of the United Church Board for World Ministries on October 1, 1962, after 38 years of service in Africa.

Miss Hurlbut was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and was graduated from Knox College (B. A., 1915) and Teachers College at Columbia University (M. A., 1924). Before going to Africa she taught for three years and was in government work in Washington for four years.

She sailed for Lisbon, Portugal, in 1924 to study the Portuguese language. Her first assignment in Angola was as a teacher at the Means School for Girls in Dondi. In 1940 she became "supervisor of rural district educational and religious work for Elende Schools", the position in which she continued until her retirement.

Miss Hurlbut is the missionary representative to the Georgia - South Carolina and Alabama-West Florida junior and senior high summer conferences, Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain, Ga.

HERE AND THERE

SEC SUMMER CAMPS

Kentucky - Tennessee

The Kentucky - Tennessee Junior High Camp will be held at Camp Ozone, July 26-August 1. For further information write to Rev. Annie R. Campbell, Robbins, Tenn.

Ga., Ala., S. C., & Fla.

The Junior and Senior High Summer Camps for these areas will be held the week of July 26-August 1 at the Roosevelt State Park, Pine Mountain, Ga.

For information please write to:

Rev. George W. Stowe
2114 64th Blvd.
Langdale, Alabama

* * * *

Church Demonstration School

The 6th Annual Church Weekday Kindergarten Demonstration School will be held at the Peachtree Road Methodist Church, 3180 Peachtree Rd., N. E., Atlanta, Ga., August 2-7. For information please write to Mrs. Marvin Sledd, Registrar, Decatur Presbyterian Church, 317 Church St., Decatur, Ga.

The school is primarily for persons involved in Church Weekday Kindergartens. The tuition, including daily lunches, is \$25.00. Reasonable overnight accommodations are available at Columbia Theological Seminary.

* * * *

United Church, Columbus

The United Church of Columbus, Ga., dedicated its new piano at a service held on Sunday, May 10th. Rev. W. S. Wood, pastor, conducted the service.

* * * *

United Nations Seminar Program

The Church Center for the United Nations offers a full schedule of one-day seminars for visitors to the World's Fair.

From May 11 through September 11, Monday through Friday, visitors may register for one or two day seminars which will include a tour of the United Nations and the Church Center. A \$1.00 registration fee is charged for the seminars. In addition, the tour of the United Nations costs \$1.00 for adults and 50c for students. Reservations should be made in advance at Church Center, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, N. Y., 10017.

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STAFF

Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr. Editor
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Superintendent's Corner

At the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention questions were raised from the floor during a discussion period concerning the charges of communist affiliations on the part of national staff members, particularly of the Council for Christian Social Action.

The name of Dr. Herman F. Reissig, of the CCSA, was mentioned in particular.

I, personally, have known Dr. Herman F. Reissig for years. I know every member of the staff of the CCSA personally. I can assure you they are not communists and they have no communist connections or sympathies. Our church members need have no concern about this.

Dr. Arthur S. Wheelock, interim pastor at the Knoxville Congregational Church, was a member of the Executive Committee of the CC Churches when these charges were first made. He recommended that a committee of outstanding laymen from our denomination be formed to conduct an investigation. The committee was formed and carried out its function.

Dr. Wheelock states that the committee "completely exonerated the staff members of the C. S. A. from any pro-communist sympathies. Indeed, they examined the charges against Herman F. Reissig in detail and found them to be utterly without justification."

There are always organizations and individuals who are willing to make serious charges against other persons and groups without basis in fact. Church members should be very careful not to accept such charges as true without first investigating the facts carefully.

I assure you that you can receive prompt reply to any questions you might have either from me or from any of our denominational officials.

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Southern Union College
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(The chairmen of the standing committees are members of the Board.
See list of committees below).

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Rev. Carolyn P. Welch
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(E. Ala.) Mrs. A. D. Harry
(N. Ala.)
(S. Ala.-N. W. Fla.)
(Ga.-S. C.) Rev. Henry C. Weaver
(Ky.-Tenn.)

Andalusia First Church Reports Debt Paid And Variety Of Activities Held

Sunday, May 17th, was a very special day for all of us at the First Church, Andalusia. For several years we had been making payments to the Commercial Bank on our new Sunday School rooms. Each class has given a part of its collection on this debt each year. After Sunday School on May 17th we all met in the basement of the church and Rev. Culpepper gave a short talk, rejoicing with us that we burned the mortgage on our Sunday School rooms. Though at times the debt seemed to be a big burden, God has blessed us in so many ways. Prayer was offered, thanking God for His goodness to us. Each class and organization is represented in the picture with Rev. Culpepper.

Mrs. Florine Wallace attended a meeting of lay leaders of the southeast area in Atlanta, Ga., May 15th and 16th. This meeting was sponsored by the Council for Lay Life and Work of the United Church of Christ. Mrs. F. C. Lester of High Point, N. C., is the Southern Regional Secretary for the CLLW. It is this Council which helps plan the activities for the Women's and Laymen's Fellowships.

On May 24th the Rev. and Mrs. Karlton C. Johnson of Atlanta and Miss Dora C. Brackin of Headland, Ala., asked for the churches in the South Alabama and Northwest Florida area to meet at the First Church, Andalusia. We were happy to have all but two churches represented. Miss Brackin acted as chairman. The meeting was opened with a hymn and Mrs. Bernice Carter read the 100th Psalm. Rev. R. C. Lentz, pastor of Antioch Church, Andalusia, led in prayer.

Miss Brackin asked "what is stewardship?" Antioch Church gave a skit on how our monies can travel all over

the world by each family sharing in the 'Family Thank Offering.' When the word "stewardship" is mentioned so many of us think of money only, but God is anxious about how we use our influence, talents, and time much more than how big our salaries are.

Miss Brackin introduced the Rev. Karlton C. Johnson, Southern Regional Secretary of the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ. Mr. Johnson's subject was "What the Lord Requires." He had much literature on stewardship and he kept us spellbound for over an hour. He showed us material on stewardship. Maybe our pastors have given us much of this same literature from time to time, but we have laid it on the shelf and never made use of it. We asked Mr. Johnson how the money that we contribute to Our Christian World Mission is spent. The material Mr. Johnson provided gave a wonderful diagram on how each dollar is divided — 75% staying here at home and 25% going for mission all over the world. Mr. Johnson gave us so much information in such an interesting way we didn't have time for questions. His closing remark was "with our world changing so fast we should wake up to the fact that there is much to be done and each Christian has a job to do for Jesus Christ by giving of his time, money, talents, and looking to God for guidance."

We were dismissed by prayer. Later refreshments were served in the basement of the church.

Our pastor, Rev. Otto Culpepper, was given a surprise birthday party on May 29th. He had told several people that he had a birthday coming, but we told him he was too old to expect a party! The Adult Sunday School Class planned a surprise party for him. We knew he had lost his small Bible while Mrs. Culpepper was in the hospital, so his class had a new Bible for him. We went to his home for a social hour and watched him open his presents.

May we be more sincere about the world we live in and do our best to apply the teachings of Jesus Christ with all people with whom we come in contact each day, showing them we have the love of Jesus in our hearts no matter what temptations befall us or what task we have to face. Witness

Antioch Church Has New Church Building



Rev. R. N. Overstreet in front of new church building

The Antioch Congregational Christian Church, Bristol, Georgia, dedicated its new church building on Sunday, April 12, 1964.

The service of dedication was shared by representatives of the community as well as by members of the church. The Rev. Norman Overstreet, Baxley, Ga., is the pastor of the church and gave leadership to the building project.

Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr. spoke at the service to bring greetings to the church from the churches of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference and the Southeast Convention and to congratulate the church and the minister on their excellent work.

Following the services in the morning a delicious dinner was served on the church grounds. Barbedue, fried chicken, pies, and cakes — the tables were filled with good things to eat.

Until recently the congregation had used a frame building which was adequate for the worship service but not for the Sunday School. The building was old.

The members decided to construct a new building on the property not far from the old building and the cemetery.

The new building has an attractive church auditorium. In addition there are Sunday School classrooms in the wings plus two rest rooms.

The new building is a credit to the congregation.

for Jesus every day.

Mrs. Bernice Carter
Reporter



N. C. & Va. Churches Move Toward U. C. C. Conference

Three United Church of Christ organizations in North Carolina and Southern Virginia have voted to approve a plan by which they hope to unite as an integrated conference possibly by January 1, 1965.

The new conference is expected to include 433 churches of the Southern Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Convention of the South (Negro Congregational Christian Churches.)

Action on the proposed union, first voted in 1962, came after a day and a half of discussion of a constitution, by-laws and other documents prepared by a steering committee. Among seven basic recommendations of the steering committee which were approved was that January 1, 1965 be the "instituting date" of the new conference.

Rev. J. Taylor Stanley, Greensboro, N. C., superintendent of the Convention of the South, said he was "greatly pleased by the definite progress made."

The only serious opposition to the proposed merger was in the Southern Convention and it was short-lived. An attempt to postpone action on the steering committee's report until 1966 was defeated 233 to 31.

The Southern Convention alone amended the steering committee's proposed instituting date by adding the words "or as soon thereafter as possible." This was done because of a constitutional provision requiring 90-day notice before changes are made.

The changes suggested in the proposed agreement by the three bodies have been referred to the steering committee. The committee will meet as soon as possible to discuss these and make final recommendations.

The three bodies will meet again in the fall to give final approval to the plan and to set the instituting date of the new conference. Both Dr. J. Banks Peeler, president of the Southern Synod, and Dr. Clyde L. Fields, superintendent of the Southern Convention, expressed confidence the conference will become a reality in 1965.

This is the same kind of a proposal for reorganization being considered in the Southeast Convention area.

Dr. & Mrs. Jesse H. Dollar Will Retire To Roanoke

Dr. Jesse H. Dollar, pastor of the First United Church of Christ, formerly the First Congregational Christian Church, of Newport News, Va., has announced his plans to retire August 1.

Dr. and Mrs. Dollar, the former Fannie Mae Elder of Roanoke, Ala., will retire to the new home they recently constructed in Roanoke.

Dr. Dollar has served the Newport News church for 18½ years. He was called to the church from the ministry of the United Congregational Christian Church, LaGrange, Ga., in 1936.

After serving the church for ten years he accepted the call to the Elon College Community Church, North Carolina, in 1946. Later, leaving Elon College to be pastor of the Liberty Springs Church, Suffolk, Va., Dr. Dollar was again called to the Newport News church in 1956 and has been there ever since.

Having led the church in one building program in which a \$90,000 educational unit was constructed, the veteran minister more recently has led the church in plans to sell its present property and to relocate. A completely new plant will be built at the new site.

Dr. Dollar is a graduate of Elon College and of the Divinity School at Vanderbilt University. In 1943 Elon College conferred the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree on him.

He has held many offices in the Southern Convention and at the national level of the Congregational Christian Churches and the United Church. From 1954 to 1957 he was on the Executive Committee of the CC churches and from 1957 to 1961 on the Executive Council of the United Church. In these capacities he was one of the leaders in the formation of the United Church.

Dr. Dollar's father, Charles Monroe Dollar, was a minister; his brother, John D. Dollar, was a minister; three nephews are ministers. There have been 195 years of Christian ministry in the family.

The people of the Southeast Convention will be happy to welcome back Dr. and Mrs. Dollar to their home country. Even in retirement they can help our churches in many ways.



Dr. Ben M. Herbster and
Rev. Harold C. Henderson

Montgomery Church Dedicates Building

"The building you have erected is but a means to an end," the Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, president of the United Church of Christ, told members of the United Congregational Church in Montgomery at the dedication of their new "shell-house" church home on Sunday, May 24.

Dr. Herbster emphasized that the "building God wants is the building of His Kingdom — the new day in the new world."

The new building is actually a house constructed without all of its interior walls. As a result, there is a large room, used for the sanctuary in which more than 80 people can be seated comfortably.

The kitchen has been completed so that church suppers, receptions, etc., can be held. The four bedrooms are now Sunday School class rooms. The two baths serve as rest rooms.

The building is located at 3210 Weedley Road in the Gay Meadows area. It is right beside the lots on which the church building eventually will be constructed. The present unit can become the parsonage or be sold as a house.

Dr. James H. Lightbourne Jr., superintendent of the Southeast Convention, and Mr. Don Meyling, chairman of the building committee, also participated in the service conducted by Rev. Harold C. Henderson, pastor.